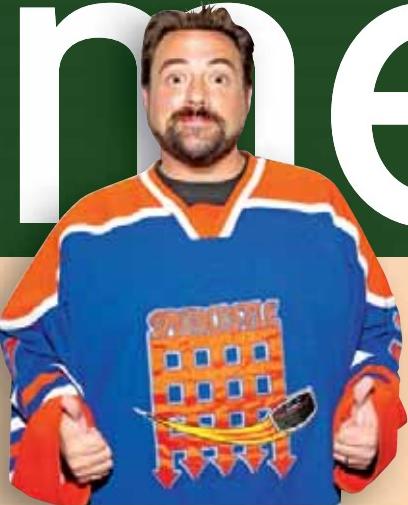


Thursday, March 19, 2015

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Silent Bob talking Tusk

Kevin Smith to host Halifax screening. Page 11

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JEFF HARPER/METRO



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Haligonians receive a White Juan 'reminder'

Weather. Up to 50 centimetres of snow falls across region, city shuts down

 HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

One of the heaviest snowfalls of the winter landed right on Halifax Wednesday, as most of the city became a ghost town of white, windy streets.

Universities, government buildings, malls, restaurants and transit services shut down for the day as up to 50 centimetres fell across the region.

Halifax Stanfield International Airport registered 44 cm of snow by late afternoon, according to Environment Canada meteorologist Linda Libby, but the city saw the bulk of the snow come in by 9 a.m., with high winds blowing everything around at 40 to 60 kilometres per hour.

"It's going to take a while for the winds to drop off and really it's going to be after that ... when people are really able to deal with what happened to them," said Libby from Charlottetown.

The blanket of snow sat atop a previous 30 centimetres most areas of Halifax got on Sunday, creating very narrow, messy streets, sidewalks and chest-high snow drifts across the region as people struggled to dig themselves out.

"In all those storms we had earlier you kind of missed the worst of it, and this time the



Melissa Nurse snowshoes over her car to look for a spot to let the dogs out in Upper Tantallon on Wednesday. One of the heaviest snowfalls of the winter landed right on Halifax Wednesday, as most of the city became a ghost town of white, windy streets. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Quoted

"I think everybody would like a little break."

Linda Libby, a meteorologist with Environment Canada

worst of it kind of fell over you guys," Libby said about Prince Edward Island getting the brunt of weather with 70 cm falling in one mid-February storm.

"You got the snow this

time."

Many residents were posting photos of their snow-buried cars on social media and saying how this week brought a White Juan situation, but Libby said the winds

were much stronger during the 2004 storm when 67 centimetres fell in the city.

"It's a nice reminder of Juan," Libby said with a laugh.

The city said Thursday's solid waste collection was also postponed to April 2, and banned all on-street parking across the region until further notice.

Due to the roughly 80

centimetres Halifax has received since the weekend, the city said parked cars have been blocking emergency vehicles and keeping clearing crews from doing their jobs.

Unfortunately, it's too early to put away our shovels, since Libby said there's a storm headed our way for Saturday night into Sunday, but it's unclear whether it could bring rain or snow.

Clearing

Streets, sidewalks should see improvements next week

As Haligonians saw Wednesday, and snow-clearing crews grimly realized, Mother Nature "isn't done with us yet."

Up to 50 centimetres of snow was dumped across the region Wednesday on top of the 30 centimetres from Sunday, leading to the city bringing in 50 extra pieces of equipment over the next 36

hours to help carry away the white stuff, said city spokeswoman Jennifer Stairs.

"Challenging would be an understatement," Stairs said about the snow-clearing efforts.

"Mother Nature isn't done with us quite yet."

The high winds made clearing especially difficult since soon after a plow went by more snow would be blown back in, Stairs said, but added they were making headway on the main arterial routes by Wednesday afternoon.

Crews were expected to

reach residential and side streets Wednesday night, and Stairs said the extra dump trucks and loaders would begin cutting down the snow banks and taking the snow away on Thursday.

To be realistic, Stairs said it's going to take a couple of days to get to the secondary roads, and it won't be until next week before sidewalks and streets "really start to improve."

"Ice isn't so much an issue this time. It's pretty much snow, but it's a heck of a lot of snow."

Stairs said while condi-

tions won't start to change until next week, the city is striving for a good commute on Monday morning when March Break is over and more people are on the roads.

"We're going to work right through the night and the weekend to make sure that people can get around," she said. HALEY RYAN/METRO

On the web

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A pedestrian walks in Halifax on Wednesday.
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

1
NEWS

'We have never had this many storms this late in the winter'

Weather. Weary residents put their backs into shovelling after massive storm

ERNESTO CARRANZA
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Tim Boudreau reached his breaking point when he began to shovel his driveway and slipped on some ice.

He looked up at the sky and sighed, "All right, you win."

Many Haligonians no doubt sympathize with Boudreau, as the city was basically shut down on Wednesday due to a winter storm that makes spring seem like a far-off dream.

The 30-year-old said he has lived in the south end of Halifax for the past six years and has never seen it this bad.

"I missed White Juan, but this is definitely the worst I have ever seen it. The only solace I have is that I will be in the Caribbean in three days," Boudreau said.

The last time J. William Shaw remembered winter running this long was 1972.

"I am not sure if we will see snow in April, but if it keeps snowing like it has, I wouldn't

Quoted

"I have lived in Halifax for 64 years, and this is the worst winter I have ever seen."

Halifax resident J. William Shaw

be surprised," he said as he dug his way toward a main road in south-end Halifax.

Not far away, David Richardson also attempted to dig out his driveway with the help of his two eight-year-old twin grandsons Teagan and Travion.

"I have lived in Halifax since 1992, and this is by far the worst I have ever seen it. I don't mind shovelling — it is good exercise — but I am glad I have these two helping me out."

Richardson couldn't believe that it was only a few days until spring.

"We have never had this many storms this late in the winter," he said. "I am hoping we don't get a rapid thaw or we will have to worry about flooding next."

Richardson's grandsons, on the other hand, looked forward to putting the snow to good use.

"We can't wait to make our snow fort," said Travion.



David Richardson and his grandsons Teagan and Travion shovel a driveway in south-end Halifax on Wednesday. ERNESTO CARRANZA/FOR METRO

Resident offers sympathy for snowplow drivers

As Kurt Streit lamented how much snow he had to shovel on Wednesday, he still felt worse for city snowplow drivers.

"I feel for them. I mean,

come on, it's been blasting this place; I know they're trying," said the north-end resident.

Streit has just returned home from England, where the

temperatures ranged from 5 to 17 °C during the six weeks he was there.

"I've had it easy being in London. My poor son Axel has

been doing all the shovelling during that time, so I suppose it's my turn," he said.

Sohnia Mutter was one of the few residents who braved

the world past their driveways on Wednesday.

She was at the Superstore on Quinpool Road because she'd forgotten to get grocer-

ies and didn't anticipate the weather.

"I'm a little bit in shock; it's literally the end of March."

MADISON BLANCHARD/FOR METRO

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| |
|---|
| 6 Tove Lo Talking Body |
| 5 The Weeknd Earned It |
| 4 Taylor Swift Style |
| 3 Shawn Mendes Something Big |
| 2 Rihanna ft Kanye West & Paul McCartney FourFiveSeconds |
| 1 Ed Sheeran Thinking Out Loud |

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Storms may slow, but don't stop, police and ambulances

Weather. 'We are there to respond': First responders able to get out to emergencies

 HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Heavy snow and blowing winds kept most people off the streets Wednesday, but first responders like police and paramedics didn't get a snow day.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages said it was "business as usual" for officers, since they don't have to wait for roads to be plowed before driving out.

"All of our vehicles are all-wheel drive or four-by-four," Bourdages said. "We are there to respond."

Bourdages said their volume of calls was lower Wednesday because there were very few people on the roads, and no major accidents.

Although Bourdages said there weren't many reports of drivers getting stuck in their cars, officers on their way to work did help a few stranded motorists or pedestrians struggling through the thick drifts, and spotted citizens doing the same.



Firefighters, police officers and paramedics carry a patient to a waiting ambulance through heavy snow in Halifax on Wednesday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Our residents have been good," Bourdages said. "People have helped each other, which is a great thing."

With businesses and municipal centres shut down around the city, Bourdages said snowstorms don't exactly make it tempting for people to head out on the roads.

"Even coffee shops are closed. There is literally nowhere to go," Bourdages said.

Ambulances cope well with snow most of the time, but drivers do have to be extra cautious when responding to a medical event in poor visibility like with Wednesday's blowing snow, said Emergency Health Services (EHS) spokeswoman Jean Spicer.

"Sometimes we're delayed getting there due to the road conditions," Spicer said.

Although she didn't know if there was a spike in medical calls during the storm, Spicer said they have been dealing with unusually high volume

for the past few months. On a storm day, transfers and lower-acuity calls are put on hold until conditions improve.

"I haven't heard (paramedics) say it's worse than anything we've had," Spicer said. "It seems to be status quo for this winter: challenge, challenge."

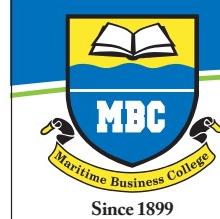
How the snow stacks up

Some facts and figures on the harsh winter conditions across Atlantic Canada after another storm hit parts of the region on Wednesday:

- **Record missed.** At Halifax's airport, this winter season's total snowfall by mid-morning on Wednesday stood at 270 centimetres, but that was still below last year's total of 287.5 centimetres. The seasonal record at the airport is 475 centimetres, recorded in 1971.

- **Record hit.** As of Monday, Saint John, N.B., had recorded 432 centimetres of snow this season, breaking the record of 427 centimetres set in 1963.

- **No winter thaws.** "Here in Nova Scotia, we're not breaking records in terms of the overall snowfall; it's just that it seems to have a bigger impact because we're not getting any melting of that snow," said Tracey Talbot of Environment Canada.



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Snow-packed Maritime winter due to lower temperatures, experts say

Another winter storm buried Nova Scotia on Wednesday as snowbanks across Atlantic Canada continue to grow, probably leaving some on the East Coast asking: Why us?

The meteorological explanation is pretty simple. In the Maritimes, it all comes down to below-average temperatures, resulting in less rain than parts of the region normally get in winter, says Environment Canada meteorologist Tracey Talbot.

"Even though we tend to get these winter storms in through the Maritime region on a regular basis ... most years get some rain associated with them," she said in an interview.

Talbot says temperatures in February were generally three to six degrees Celsius lower

The white stuff

475 cm

The record snowfall for a winter at Halifax Stanfield International Airport. It was set in 1971.

than usual.

Environment Canada has said that strange weather across North America this winter can be attributed in part to the position of the jet stream, a river of fast-moving, high-altitude air that moves west to east across the continent.

Normally, the jet stream divides cold northern air from warm southern air. Storms are caused when air masses of different temperatures along the

jet stream collide.

In January, David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada, said the jet stream has been careening up and down the continent "like a drunken sailor" weaving from the Gulf of Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico.

Ian Folkins, a professor of physics and atmospheric science at Dalhousie University in Halifax, said while the jet stream's position is linked to East Coast storms, it's difficult to say which is the cause and which is the effect.

"It's hard to say if the storms cause the jet stream to be displaced, or the jet stream being displaced causes the storms to change. They're both affecting each other."

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Workers walk down the middle of Brunswick Street in Halifax during the height of the storm on Wednesday. Inset: A motorist attempts to move his car in Halifax. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Old Man Winter: Friend or foe?

Weather. Metro gave our social media users a chance to vent over all this snow

 **HALEY RYAN**
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Some Haligonians are his biggest fans, while others would like to kill him with their cold, tired hands, thank you very much.

Many have a theory Mother Nature is giving him the cold shoulder in their marriage. Whether you love him or hate him, Old Man Winter is a polarizing character these days after a month and a half of seemingly endless snowstorms and icy roads and 50 centimetres falling on Wednesday.

So we asked you to vent your feelings about Old Man Winter on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Here are some of your responses.

Twitter



@catmeghan: I am too busy curled up in the fetal position, weeping softly, to complain.

@matdey1980: It's winter in Canada. You live in Canada...let me repeat..... CA NA DA. If you don't like it move out west or Florida.

@bgaronce: Assuming you won't post profanity-laced comments, so I'll just continue to yell into my pillow....

@Lebowskidoo: This is not normal snow, this snow is evil, this snow is DEVIL SNOW FROM HELL!!!

@Bill_Zebedee: Old Man Winter needs to stop taking the Niagara

@MilkmanDead: guess it's time to formally apologize to #Halifax for my affair with Old Man Winter's wife. #nsstorm

@rockysundin13: Thank u old man winter.. i get to cuddle and snuggle my kids today. Plus catch up on #OnceUponATime #embrace-winter

@calebstark: I think we should all collectively shovel the sidewalk in front of our houses, sending an invoice to the city of #halifax

Facebook



Loretta Gavel: I seriously think someone needs to stage an intervention for Old Man Winter and his addiction to the white stuff

Natasha Lane: Old man winter please take long walk off short Halifax pier

Glen Alan Lefebre: It's beautiful. Just imagine the days of old, before all this modern snow removal equipment and that might bring some relief to your mind on how bad it's not

Lisa Jane: Dear Old man winter, Day 5 of March Break. The snow has come again. We have run out of important provisions like alcohol and storm chips. We're starting to turn on each other. Thankfully the small ones are plump and well fed should I have to eat my young. I can barely see out the windows. Like white sand dunes it's hard to see where the snow ends and sky line begins. I may have to train my 75lb dog to use a litter box. The calendar says its Spring it two days but I can't believe it because I know inanimate objects aren't suppose to be talking, you should hear what the toaster said. Pray for us.

Amanda Burke: "Old man winter" thank you for

keeping me in shape during the winter. I'm enjoying my outside workouts

Jennifer Johns Dolson: Dear Old Man Winter: thanks for all the new words. 'Snowpocalypse' and 'snowleucinations' (when you imagine you might have JUST shovelled that spot a minute ago...also known as snojauv in some areas); and our new provincial name: Snowva Scotia. But that's enough learning for one season. Time for spring words now, like black flies and runoff

Barbara Chase: I want Mr. Sunshine to come and beat the snot out of Old Man Winter. I don't condone violence but I would look the other way in this instance

Audrey Joanne Duprey: Old man winter is like Stephen Harper. He makes a mess out of everything

Ashley V Leslie: I lived in the Yukon for 5 years and this is the worst winter I have experienced to date. I moved home to get away from the harshness of winter. So much for that

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Sackville. Man charged with sexually assaulting girl with disabilities

Halifax Mounties have charged a Middle Sackville man with sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl at a March Break camp for people with disabilities.

Police say the alleged incident happened Monday. The victim, who is from the Halifax area, told investigators that she was sexually assaulted while attending a March Break camp with Social Opportunities And Rec Society (SOARS).

SOARS is located on Sackville Drive and is a non-profit social-enterprise organization, which according to its website "provides safe, quality day programs and services for young adults ages 16 to 35 living with intellectual and physical challenges."

Anthony Leo Gough, 48, has been charged with sexual assault, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability and driving while disqualified. Gough is the executive director of SOARS.

He was expected to be arraigned in Dartmouth provincial court on Wednesday.

"Our main message is that we encourage anyone in any circumstance who has been a victim of sexual assault to come forward," RCMP spokesman Cpl. Greg Church said Wednesday.

Police believe there could be other victims and are asking anyone with information about the alleged incident, or any other similar to it, to contact them at 902-490-5180.

ERNESTO CARRANZA/FOR METRO

Quoted

"We urge people to contact us if they have any information whatsoever." RCMP spokesman Cpl. Greg Church



Liberal MLA Andrew Younger. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Woman pleads not guilty to assaulting cabinet minister

A woman charged with assaulting a Nova Scotia cabinet minister has pleaded not guilty.

Defence lawyer Joel Pink entered the plea in Halifax provincial court Wednesday on behalf of his client Tara Gault, who did not attend. A trial date has been set for Nov. 4.

Court documents say Gault, 28, is charged with assaulting Andrew Younger on or about Oct. 22, 2013, the day the Liberal government assumed power after the last provincial election.

Gault must abstain from contacting Younger and his wife, as well as another woman, except through legal counsel.

Younger has been on temporary leave from his cabinet post since Dec. 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chebucto Road

Halifax Transit bus driver reportedly shot at after being cut off by truck

A Halifax Transit bus driver said he was shot at overnight after he was cut off by someone driving a truck on Chebucto Road.

The driver told police he was cut off by a red truck with a light on its roof and a salt spreader on the back just after midnight on Wednesday.

Shortly afterward, he saw the truck pull over by a local business then heard what he said were shots being fired.

When police responded a short time later, they were unable to locate the truck or the driver.

The suspect is described as being a white man, between the ages of 30 and 40, who was wearing a yellow vest with dark pants and a jacket.

MADISON BLANCHARD/FOR METRO

King's County

Men charged with cocaine trafficking

After the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) intercepted a package of cocaine last week, two King's County men have been charged with importing cocaine and possessing cocaine for the purpose of trafficking.

On March 11, CBSA found 520 grams of cocaine in a package from Colombia. Officers then contacted the RCMP about the shipment, which led to a further investigation in order to identify the individuals responsible for the importation.

Two men — Kyle Delbert Hill, 25, of Greenwich, and Ronald Emerson Rogers, 45, of Wolfville — were arrested Monday. Police also executed a search warrant at a Greenwich residence and seized a number of electronic devices, including computers and cellphones.

KING'S COUNTY REGISTER



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HALIFAX



Filmmaker seeks to inspire at screening

Backstage Pass. Clerks director Kevin Smith will also answer questions on his new 'weird' movie Tusk at Citadel High School's Spatz Theatre

 **ALY THOMSON**
halifax@metronews.ca

Kevin Smith says it's OK if you don't like his new movie Tusk.

"It's a weird movie. I can understand people not liking it," admitted Smith, a filmmaker, comedian and podcaster who has written and directed a number of flicks including Clerks, Chasing Amy and Dogma.

"I certainly don't make these things to get rich. I make them to be like, 'Here, what

do you think?' I like feedback. Positive or negative."

The 44-year-old Smith will host a screening of Tusk and field questions from the audience at Citadel High School's Spatz Theatre on Sunday.

Regardless of what people think of Tusk, Smith says he's hoping to inspire the next generation of artists.

"I talk about what I do for a living and how simple it is and how I'm a chimp and if I can pull it off, you can, too. And not just filmmaking — anything," said Smith, who has been in the business for more than two decades.

"It becomes this kind of unintentional self-esteem pep rally. It's crazy positive. You laugh, you learn some stuff, and then you walk out of there wanting to create something."

Smith has stood on the Spatz stage several times over

Quoted

"The general feedback of the show is that they laugh and then they walk out inspired."

Film maker and Tusk director Kevin Smith

the past four years.

"You feel naughty. You feel like you're getting away with something, being able to cuss up on the high school stage," said Smith with a laugh from Los Angeles.

Smith said he's especially tickled by the theatre's makeshift green room: the school art studio.

"Your sitting at the teacher's desk with a bunch of art surrounding you. It's kind of inspiring," said Smith, who can often be seen sporting a scruffy brown beard, hockey

jersey and black-rimmed glasses.

"When you go into general theatres, you'll see walls covered with previous acts that have been there that are massively famous. When you walk into the Spatz green room, I'm not going to be intimidated by some 11th grader's still life project."

Tusk stars Justin Long as podcaster Wallace Bryton, who ventures into the Canadian wilderness to interview an old man (Michael Parks) and eventually ends up becoming a walrus.

"It's really dumb, but it's executed with such earnestness. That cast is acting as if they're in Affleck's Argo movie," said Smith. "It's an exercise in absurdism."

Smith also nabbed Haley Joel Osment, Genesis Rodriguez and Johnny Depp for the comedy-horror film.



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Jobs out west appear Down East, on Facebook

An employment centre Facebook page in Cape Breton is getting so popular, it has attracted people around the world.

"We have followers from everywhere now," said Jeanie Burke, information resource worker at the New Waterford Employment Resource Centre.

"I had a man in Ire-

land wanting me to help him find a job out west. Obviously we don't do international, I had to kind of let him down that way."

Burke said the page has almost 3,000 followers.

She said they don't know how it's happening but assume it's mainly word of mouth from people telling others they can find jobs in

Quoted

"We have followers from everywhere now."

Jeanie Burke, information resource worker at the New Waterford Employment Resource Centre.

Western Canada on the centre's Facebook page.

Burke said jobs in the

region are posted on their page daily.

"From Monday to Friday, we can post anywhere from 50 to 100 jobs out west a day on our page."

Burke said they usually just post the ones that offer camp and flight or offer camp and a travel allowance.

CAPE BRETON POST

Feds assess modern protests with national ‘risk forecast’

Security. Meetings driven by feds' desire to plan for protests over environmental development projects

Use of social media, the spread of “citizen journalism” and the involvement of young people are among the key trends highlighted by a federal analysis of protest activity in Canada over the last half-decade.

A growing geographic reach and an apparent increase in protests that target infrastructure such as rail lines are also boosting the impact of demonstrations, says the Government Operations Centre analysis, obtained under the Access to Information Act.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service included the spring 2014 risk forecast

in materials prepared for two meetings of the deputy ministers’ committee on resources and energy last April.

The meetings were driven by the federal government’s desire to plan for protests that might happen in response to resource-development decisions on projects such as the Northern Gateway pipeline.

The newly released documents heighten fears about government anti-terrorism legislation that would allow much easier sharing of federally held information about people, said Josh Paterson, executive director of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association.

“To us, this just looks like the example of exactly why we ought to be concerned about these provisions.”

It found demonstrations generally fell into four primary issue categories: social, political, environmental and



A woman protests on a national day of action against Bill C-51, the government's proposed anti-terrorism legislation, in Montreal on Saturday. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

First Nations.

The “notoriety and success” of civil-society efforts such as the Arab Spring,

the aboriginal Idle No More movement, the Occupy protests and anti-pipeline demonstrations have inspired

Canadian citizens to start grassroots initiatives and make their voices heard, the study notes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg

Heroics on second date

A 21-year-old passing motorist pulled an unconscious driver from his burning vehicle after it crashed into a first-floor condo in Winnipeg.

Tristan Gareau was driving his date home around 11:45 p.m. when they saw the car’s smoke and flames.

“By the time I could tell there was a gentleman in there, the tires had blown up, and that’s when the car actually started to go up in flames,” said Gareau, who works as a part-time DJ and youth soccer referee. “I couldn’t let him stay in there.”

Police have said Gareau helped save the 65-year-old man’s life.

METRO IN WINNipeg

Politics

PM shoots down critics of his gun comments

Suggestions that Canada is on the road to an American-style system of gun ownership or that the Conservative government condones vigilante justice are absurd, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Wednesday.

“Gun owners in Canada are not allowed to take the law into their own hands. Nobody here is suggesting they should be able to do that,” he said.

Harper denounced his critics as confused rabble rousers who don’t like gun owners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Israeli election

Harper applauds Netanyahu’s win

Canada is taking a wait-and-see attitude on the foreign-policy implications of the Israeli election, although Stephen Harper has tweeted his own congratulations to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu’s right-wing Likud Party won re-election in Israel’s national ballot, although it will take some horse-trading to form a government with partners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Education. Family of cuffed autistic boy wants answers

The family of a nine-year-old boy with autism who was handcuffed at school wants “full disclosure” of the records of their son’s care.

Stephanie Huck and her husband have kept their son Daniel Ten Oever home since police handcuffed him last month to restrain him for acting out in the principal’s office.

The family says it will not send the boy back to class until it sees all the facts — including the plans for his future care and staff training.

“He is autistic, so being out of his routine has caused great stress for him,” Stephanie Huck told reporters on Parliament Hill on Wednesday.

day. “The traumatic event of being handcuffed has also had a lasting impact on him and on his family as well.”

Roch Longuepée, CEO of Restoring Dignity, the organization representing the family, said they have not ruled out a lawsuit against the Ottawa Catholic School Board. But that will depend on what’s revealed in the records. They are starting a fund to raise money for the family’s legal fees.

Restoring Dignity is also calling on families of special-needs children who have had similar experiences with school boards in Ontario to come forward.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO IN OTTAWA



Stephanie Huck, supported by her father Chris Huck, talks about her son Daniel Ten Oever in Ottawa on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEW DRONE WORLD

Metro looks at how drone technology is changing the skies in Canada

/ Wednesday—Droning becomes big business

/ Thursday—Officers aren't using drones to spy... yet

/ Friday—You can make friends with #droneselfies

Get caught up at metronews.ca



A police officer flies the Aeryon Scout in Halton, Ont. Halton police bought a drone in 2009, and since then, it has been used in about 50 missions. Inset: A drone's-eye view of the scene of an accident reconstruction. COURTESY AERYON LABS

'We don't just fly over homes at random'

Law enforcement. Worried about police using drones in Canada? Departments that use them say it's nothing to fret about

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Halton Regional Police in Ontario have used their drone to search for missing persons, probe collisions and investigate an armed robbery and homicide. In 2012, the Aeryon Scout, as their drone is named, helped officers find about \$744,000 worth of marijuana that was growing on a farm.

Halton police first purchased a drone (or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, as they are known in the industry) to use in their investigations in 2009, when it was still a relatively new technology in law enforcement. Since then, it has been used in 50 police missions, according to now-retired operation manager Det. Dave Banks.

"We don't just fly over homes at random," says Const. Andy Olesen. "Well, we can, and we don't."

Today, with many police forces in major cities in Canada using drones and the RCMP adding them to their arsenal of search-and-rescue tools, concerns have been growing over privacy and surveillance. Police

Coast-to-coast roundup:

A look at some of the police departments using drones or considering them:

- **Toronto.** The Toronto Police Service does not deploy drones but has had demonstrations from a manufacturer.
- **Ottawa.** Although Ottawa police are not deploying drones right now, their Collisions Section is interested in their use for aerial surveys of large collisions or investigative scenes as well as for use in missing-
- **Vancouver.** The Vancouver Police Department does not use drones but is considering it for the future.
- **RCMP.** Various detachments nationwide have deployed drones for search-and-rescue missions as well as aerial photography of crash scenes.

are trying to calm the public's nerves.

Olesen says Halton police are very cautious about the use of its drone, given those concerns.

"We're very conscious of ... what people's perception of it is, that it's a surveillance tool," he explains. "We don't want to make that any worse than it is."

Halton's Aeryon Scout is a black and white quadcopter remotely controlled with a tablet laptop using Google maps. It is relatively small and comes equipped with video and photo capabilities.

Olesen says Transport Canada regulations constrain where and how they can fly their UAV, and the drone itself offers physical limitations.

persons searches.

• **Edmonton.** The Edmonton Police Service deploys a drone to take aerial photographs of accident scenes.

• **Vancouver.** The Vancouver Police Department does not use drones but is considering it for the future.

• **RCMP.** Various detachments nationwide have deployed drones for search-and-rescue missions as well as aerial photography of crash scenes.

It can only be flown in good weather, and its battery life leaves much to be desired, averaging about 15 to 20 minutes per charge.

"On the list of things we use it for, surveillance isn't even on our list, just because it's not practical," Olesen says.

"Down the road, (surveillance) might be possible," he says. "I think that'll happen."

Who patrols the patrollers?

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC) has raised various concerns regarding drone use in law enforcement. Highlighted in a March 2013 report, the privacy watchdog has noted that "certain attributes can make (drones) a relatively covert form

of surveillance."

Tobi Cohen, spokeswoman for the agency, tells Metro that current regulations do not address the sometimes wide gap that results from "issues related to purpose and the privacy implications of (drone) use."

"Current regulations governing drone operations have more to do with ensuring their safe flight and do little to address the privacy implications of having Canadian skies filled with hovering data-collecting robots," Cohen says.

When it comes to drones, people don't always know who is watching or what data they're collecting. This "can contribute to a lack of awareness and effective complaint mechanisms," Cohen says.

To that end, Cohen says, the OPC advises law enforcement to comply with their video-surveillance guidelines.

Among their recommendations, the OPC says law enforcement should use video surveillance in a way that minimizes invasion of privacy, hold public consultations and assess privacy impacts beforehand.

Drones beyond the law: Halifax lawyer David Fraser says the public shouldn't be worried as long as the proper regulatory framework is put in place.

It's a historical fact, Fraser says, that new technology will expand the collection of personal information, which can sometimes lead to what he calls a "techno-panic." He says

Canadian Armed Forces

Canada has yet to use killer drones

While the United States continues to make headlines for their use of armed drones, Canada currently does not have them nor use them, according to a Department of National Defence spokesman. But that might change.

"We neither operate nor lease armed UAVs," says Daniel Blouin, but he adds armed drones "are being examined for future international operations."

"UAVs have unparalleled operating range and endurance," Blouin says. "If the pilot gets tired, you don't have to return to base and

privacy laws should be updated to reflect new behaviours that society finds unacceptable.

"You criminalize the behaviour and not the technology. Because it's really about the behaviour."

Fraser adds that drones do create a change in what's possible in terms of encroachment on privacy. For example, when living in a tall building, there is a higher expectation of privacy on higher floors. With drones, those heights will now be accessible to view.

land; you can just swap a new one into the seat."

Blouin says the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have used unarmed drones in overseas operations since 2003, stressing that the CAF only uses drones in what is called an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capacity.

He adds the current model is limited in that it can't carry heavy loads, transport personnel or conduct air-to-air combat. Only one model is in active use by the CAF: the Scan Eagle.

Blouin says it is used by the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Navy frigates on international operations, most recently by HMCS Regina in an ISR capacity.

"The question then becomes: does the introduction of drones change our expectations of privacy? Or should it?"

When drones are more intrusive on individual privacy, such as collecting information about individuals, "that's when it's worth having a good discussion about what our reasonable expectations are," Fraser says.

"That discussion should always be much more than, 'Oh, well, that's creepy,' because a discussion about what's creepy doesn't help."

Netanyahu win leaves allies, foes on edge

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's strong showing in national elections this week has come with a price: he has managed to antagonize friends and foes alike with hard-line rhetoric on the campaign trail.

While the tough talk gave Netanyahu a last-minute boost in the polls, the Israeli leader could now face a difficult task convincing an already skeptical world that he is serious about reaching peace with his Arab neighbours — particularly if, as expected, he forms a new government comprised of religious and nationalistic parties.

Trailing in opinion polls, Netanyahu took a sharp turn to the right in the final days of the campaign to shore up support among his core constituency.

He vowed to increase settlement construction in east Jerusalem, the Palestinians' would-



be capital, and rejected the idea of a Palestinian state in current conditions — putting him at odds with U.S. and European positions and reversing his own policy of the past six years.

In a last-ditch attempt to spur his supporters to the polls Tuesday, he warned that Arab citizens were voting "in

droves" and endangering years of rule by his Likud Party. The comments drew accusations of racism from Israeli Arabs and a White House rebuke.

In Washington, the Obama administration said Wednesday that it was "deeply concerned" by the divisive language used by the Likud.

Netanyahu's controversial stance appears to have paid off at home. Thought to be in danger of being voted out of office just a few days ago, the Likud emerged as the largest party in parliament when near-final results trickled in Wednesday, leaving it in position to lead the next coalition government.

The Likud led the election by capturing 30 seats in the 120-member parliament, according to near-final results released Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



First responders rescue a victim after gunmen opened fire at the Bardo museum in Tunisia's capital Wednesday. Authorities say scores of people are dead after the attack on one of the country's major museums, while some of the gunmen may have escaped. ALI BEN SALAH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shooting leaves 20 dead, 50 wounded

Tunisia. Museum attack the worst act of violence on a tourist site since 2002

Quoted

"We will be merciless in the defence of our country."

Habib Essid, prime minister of Tunisia

Gummen opened fire Wednesday at a major museum in Tunisia's capital, killing at least 20 people in one of the worst attacks in this struggling North African democracy that depends heavily on tourism.

Men with assault rifles fired at tourists climbing from buses in front of the National Bardo Museum in Tunis near parliament, sending dozens sprinting for safety. Two gunmen were killed, but Prime Minister Habib Essid said a manhunt was on for two or three others.

The identity of the attackers wasn't clear. Twitter accounts

associated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) were described as overjoyed at the attack, urging Tunisians to "follow their brothers," according to Rita Katz of SITE, a U.S.-based organization that monitors militant groups.

About 50 people were wounded in the attack, which began after noon local time, Tunisian state television said.

Security forces immediately flooded the area around the museum. Tunisia's parliament building, where deputies were debating a new anti-terrorism

law, was evacuated.

According to Essid, the dead include two gunmen, a Tunisian security officer and a Tunisian cleaning woman, while the rest were tourists from Italy, Poland, Germany and Spain.

Tunisia has struggled to keep extremist violence at bay since the overthrow of its dictator in 2011. The attack was the worst on a tourist site since an al-Qaida car bomb killed 21 people in 2002.

"Our nation is in danger," Essid warned in an address on national television Wednesday evening after the siege ended.

"We will be merciless in the defence of our country," he added, describing the attack as an unprecedented assault on Tunisia's economy. He promised increased security in tourist zones and asked residents to be on alert. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain. Study highlights region's genetic history

Genetic samples collected from across the United Kingdom are shedding light on the ancient past, including Viking invasions and a mystery about the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons, researchers report.

The DNA also suggests that, genetically speaking, people in Wales are the closest matches to early settlers of Britain after the last ice age about 10,000 to 11,000 years ago.

That's because the Welsh genetic material has been the least affected by later migrations, said Peter Donnelly of Oxford University, a key author of the research.

The work is presented in a paper released Wednesday by

the journal Nature.

The researchers studied DNA samples from 2,039 white residents of Britain and Northern Ireland, chosen for their family roots in rural areas. The DNA they inherited from their grandparents reflects the genetic landscape of those areas in the late 1880s, researchers said.

To identify signs of ancient immigrations, the researchers consulted DNA samples taken from continental Europeans.

Analysis showed Danish Vikings, who occupied a large part of England after invading in the year 865, have left no clear genetic heritage today.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anglo-Saxon migration

The study took on the question of what happened after the Anglo-Saxons arrived in Britain during the fifth century.

- Changing customs.** Upon arrival, the language, cereal crops and pottery styles replaced those of the existing British population. The study further asks what happened to the pre-fifth-century British population.

- New relations.** The study argues that a substantial number of Anglo-Saxons arrived and became intermingled with locals, according to study co-author Mark Robinson.

Humanitarian relief

Haiti asks UN to delay withdrawal

Haiti asked the UN on Wednesday to delay a plan that would nearly cut in half its peacekeeping force, just as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere enters a tense election period.

Ambassador Denis Regis warned the Security Council that a withdrawal will jeopardize the country's security status.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serbia

Police arrest eight over alleged role in 1995 massacre

Serbian police arrested eight men for alleged roles in killing more than 1,000 Bosnian Muslims in the 1995 Srebrenica Massacre. Chief Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic said the accused "are former members of a special brigade of the Bosnian Serb police." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nevada

Senator sponsors pot bill for animals

Pets might soon be able to use marijuana under a bill introduced Tuesday in the Nevada legislature.

Sen. Tick Segerblom is sponsoring the measure that would allow animal owners to get marijuana for their pet if a veterinarian certifies the animal has an illness that might be alleviated by the drug.

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Ex-astronaut thinks Mars plan won't fly

Space. Canadian says the technology simply isn't available

Former Canadian astronaut Julie Payette doesn't have very high hopes for the controversial one-way mission to send people to live on Mars.

Dutch-based Mars One wants to establish a colony on the red planet by 2025, and six Canadians are among the 100 finalists still in the running. The \$6-billion project calls for the use of existing technology and would be funded through sponsors, private investors and a reality TV show.

But Payette said Wednesday that "nobody is going anywhere in 10 years."

"We don't have the technology to go to Mars, with everything we know today, so I don't think that a marketing company and a TV-type of selection is sending anybody



Ex-astronaut Julie Payette thinks people hoping for an out-of-this-world experience to Mars are out of their minds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

anywhere," she said. "So, if you meet any of those people, don't tell them they're courageous because the only courage they had was to sign up on a website."

Engineers at Boston-based MIT, who analyzed the feasibility of the mission, have also suggested new technology will be needed to keep humans alive once they get there.

Payette made her com-

ments during a speech that opened a three-day aerospace symposium at the Montreal headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). ICAO has teamed up with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) to discuss emerging space activities and civil aviation.

"We are going to go to space on a commercial basis, and it's at our doors," Payette said. "It's a reality that will become the norm in the next decades."

The 51-year-old urged those attending the symposium to work together "to make it happen in a safe, careful, efficient and intelligent manner."

Payette travelled into space twice — in 1999 and in 2009. She retired from the Canadian Space Agency in July 2013 to become chief operating officer of the Montreal Science Centre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Boatloads of catfish litter Chinese roadway

People use buckets to gather catfish spilled on a road in the city of Kaili, in southwest China's Guizhou province, earlier this week. About 6,800 kilograms of catfish were dumped onto the roadway when the door of a cargo truck accidentally opened Tuesday afternoon. Chinese media said firefighters and local residents were able to collect most of the fish in about two hours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

cbc news
Investigates

Adrienne Arsenault for CBC News

Low-carbon economy in sight: Report

Climate change.

Experts from all 10 provinces say weaning Canada off fossil fuels is within reach

Dozens of Canada's top scholars are urging a sweeping remake of how the country produces and uses its energy in a necessary effort to wean itself off fossil fuels.

A report by 59 scientists, economists, engineers, sociologists, architects and philosophers from all 10 provinces was released Wednesday ahead of December's climate meeting in Paris.

The report suggests emissions should be cut by up to 28 per cent over 2005 levels by 2025 and by 80 per cent by 2050. By 2035, Canada's entire electricity grid should

be completely low-carbon. The good news, the scholars write, is that we're most of the way there.

James Byrne, a University of Lethbridge climatologist, said more than 75 per cent of Canada's electricity grid is already low-carbon. All that it would take to go the rest of the way is better transmission capacity between adjoining provinces and some backstopping by renewable sources such as wind or solar.

The report brims with other proposals. Minimize energy use in building designs. Electrify public vehicles such as transit buses. Link major cities with high-speed rail. Upgrade fuel standards.

"It's going to cost us about one per cent of GDP," said Byrne. "But it's going to save us four or five times that in health and environmental costs." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Airlines

Pilots' strike grounds flights

About 750 short- and medium-haul flights were cancelled Wednesday after Lufthansa pilots went on strike — the latest in a string of walk-outs. The Vereinigung Cockpit union said it would extend its strikes to long-distance flights on Thursday. Around 80,000 passengers were affected by the strike Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| DOLLAR | 79.55¢ (+ 1.28¢) |
| TSX | 14,962.24 (+ 63.71) |
| OIL | \$44.66 US (+ \$1.20) |
| GOLD | \$1,151.30 US (+ \$3.10) |

Natural gas: \$2.920 US (+6.5¢)
Dow Jones: 18,076.19 (+ 227.11)

Ride-sharing. Frankfurt court bans Uber service

A German court banned Uber from offering its ride-sharing service nationwide on Wednesday, adding to the company's troubles in Europe.

Frankfurt state court spokesman Arne Hasse said the ruling was issued Wednesday, banning the UberPop service from offering rides with drivers who don't have taxi permits. The ruling can be appealed.

The ruling stems from a suit brought against Uber by a German taxi association, which was heard in Frankfurt because it is one of several German cities where Uber launched operations.

The court issued an injunction banning Uber from operating last summer but lifted it a few weeks later, saying that

while it considered Uber's practices illegal an emergency injunction wasn't justified.

Uber has also hit trouble in the Netherlands, Spain and France, which has effectively banned its service.

Uber said it regrets the Frankfurt court's ruling, calling it "a defeat for all those who want more choice in their personal mobility." It added that it is "working on an alternative ride-sharing offer that we are adapting specifically to the formalities in Germany" but didn't elaborate.

Taxi associations accuse Uber of allowing its drivers to skirt safety and insurance regulations that conventional cabs have to abide by.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Starbucks to bring lattes to your desk

Starbucks says it will start a 30-minute delivery service to customers in select parts of Seattle and New York City later this year. In New York City, people will be able use a website to place orders. In Seattle, people would place orders via the company's mobile app. There will be no minimum purchase required, but deliveries will require "a small flat fee" and delivery workers will accept tips, too. Starbucks also says it's on track for a rollout of mobile order-and-pay across the U.S. The program, which lets customers place orders through its apps ahead of time so that drinks and food are ready when they arrive at the store, will launch in Canada this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Big Tobacco. Bloomberg, Bill Gates join the fight

Smokers

80%

The World Health Organization says nearly 80 per cent of the world's 1 billion smokers live in low- and middle-income countries. Tobacco use kills more than 5 million people each year, it says.

packaging for cigarettes without logos. The companies claim the tobacco-control policies violate international trade agreements and World Trade Organization rules.

Bloomberg said the fund will assist smaller, developing countries that often don't have the resources to compete with tobacco companies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

THE GREATEST TEACHER

Ahead of World Down Syndrome Day on Sunday, CTV News anchor Tamara Taggart tells Metro how her son has taught her more about the syndrome than the experts



TAMARA TAGGART

readers@metronews.ca

We found out that our son Beckett has Down syndrome when he was five days old—and I'm not going to lie, it was devastating.

We were scared because we didn't know anything about Down syndrome. After seven years, it turns out Beckett has taught us much more about Down syndrome than any "expert." It's been a long journey for all of us.

When we were in the hospital and it was mentioned that Beckett should be tested for Trisomy 21, we started Googling "Down syndrome." I don't recommend this. Dr. Google is a jerk, and when you're scared in a hospital bed with hormones raging, you are incapable of filtering all the garbage out there. The outdated pictures and physical descriptions of people with Down syndrome are too much for a new mother holding her perfect baby.

Perfect? Yes. That's what I said. Beckett is perfect. He was the day he was born and he still is. But it's hard for some people outside of our family to understand this reality.

Others may look at us and feel sorry because our son has special needs, but we're not sorry at all. He's non-verbal, but he's making huge improvements. Toilet training is slow, he doesn't understand fear and he has a few health challenges—but it's



Left: Tamara Taggart says her son Beckett is perfect. Middle: Beckett celebrates his sixth birthday with dad Dave Genn, Taggart and sisters Poppy and Zoë. Right: Taggart and Beckett at Jericho Beach in Vancouver. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY TAMARA TAGGART



nothing we can't handle.

From those frightening early days on Google, we've come so far and we've done it together.

We rarely think about Down syndrome now. Beckett is a typical boy and he is not defined by his challenges. He's funny, bright and loving.

Perhaps the biggest challenge of all is the public perception of this syndrome. There were many times that I felt rage over ignorant words or careless stereotypes some people would use to describe my son.

As a new parent, I was asked num-

erous times if I had "testing" when pregnant, as if people couldn't imagine I actually made the choice to keep a baby with Down syndrome.

Telling me that people with Down syndrome are always such happy people is ridiculous to me.

My son is happy because he is loved, not because he has an extra chromosome. It's another stereotype that's still out there.

And don't get me started on the R-word. You know the word I'm talking about because I'm sure you still hear it from time to time.

I hope you can understand that people who use this word are thoughtless and unimaginative.

Even describing my child as a "Down's kid" is insulting because he's so much more than that. Beckett is my son who happens to have Down syndrome; he is not defined by his extra chromosome any more than you are defined by the colour of your hair.

The beautiful gift of time is that all these things don't bother me so much anymore, although I'd love to see some of these perceptions change. But I'm solid. I know who Beckett is and

what he has to offer the world.

When speaking with new parents, I always tell them the same thing: "Everything is going to be great, I promise." It's a promise they can count on.

If there's one thing I've learned, it's that I know it will all be OK.

Tamara Taggart is an award-winning news anchor on CTV News at 6 in Vancouver. She is married to music producer/guitarist Dave Genn of 54-40 and they have 3 children: Beckett, Zoë and Poppy

Men and women need to stop with breastfeeding shaming



KRISTEN THOMPSON

readers@metronews.ca

I can't believe I'm actually writing this column because this has been said so many times. But, given the recent breastfeeding-shaming incidents at a Winnipeg mall and on a United Airlines flight, I guess it needs to be said again:

Breastfeeding is not gross. It's natural, it's important and it's really difficult. So it's shocking to me that mothers are being shamed for doing it in public—and by other women.

I nursed my daughter for 12 months. Sometimes I covered up, sometimes I didn't, but I was always modest. It was painful and difficult, and I would have quit without the support of my husband. In that year, the

only people who ever gave me a disgusted sideways look, or admitted openly to being offended or disgusted by public nursing, were women.

Somehow their judgment stung worse than it would have had it come from a man. I look to other women—and mothers—for support and understanding. Women seem to be perpetually apologizing for their bodies, and the fact that shame and judgment often comes from other women seems completely illogical.

Penny Van Esterik, an anthropologist at Toronto's York University and a breastfeeding researcher and author, says some women see breastfeeding as an in-your-face political statement or a way to shame mothers who bottle-fed their own children.

She pointed out that as we have become more of a bottle-feeding cul-

ture, several generations of women have become unfamiliar with nursing. This has made public breastfeeding—something that doesn't raise an eyebrow in much of the rest of the world—seem foreign and inappropriate.

"Nurturing practices and customs are passed down from grandmother to mother and mother to daughter, and when those customs and support practices are disrupted, they are gone," said Van Esterik. "They are lost for women, but it's also a loss for men who don't know how to support their breastfeeding partners or where to look when they see other women breastfeeding in public because they haven't seen much breastfeeding."

"If someone responds with disgust to this basic nurturing practice, somehow society is at fault," she said. "Not

to support a breastfeeding mother is to reject one of the most important nurturing practices in the world. We should all be celebrating it."

We place huge expectations and judgments on women and mothers. That judgment needs to stop, and the change needs to start with women.

That means not expecting moms to tuck themselves into a bathroom stall to feed their baby for 45 minutes because you are offended by the sight of boobs across the restaurant.

Breasts are not gross. Our babies' hunger is not gross. The milk our bodies make to feed our children is not gross. We need to hammer this point home again and again and again until not a single nursing mother feels she needs to turn away in shame.

Van Esterik said it best at the end of our interview when she gave a mes-

Recent incidents

- A Winnipeg mother recently accused a mall security officer of telling her to stop breastfeeding because it was "offensive."
- A woman on a United Airlines flight said a flight attendant threw a blanket at her husband when she started breastfeeding her son on a flight.

sage to people—men or women—who have a problem with public breastfeeding: "Tell them to put a blanket over their own heads."

Kristen Thompson is a national editor with Metro News.

Shailene's still not a feminist, still doesn't know what it means

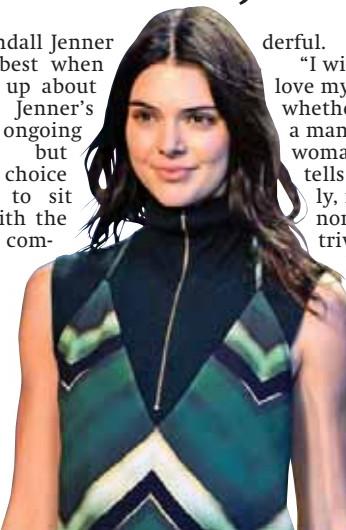


Shailene Woodley. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kendall opens up about Bruce Jenner

I'm sure Kendall Jenner meant the best when she opened up about dad Bruce Jenner's rumoured ongoing transition, but her word choice isn't going to sit very well with the transgender community.

"He's a wonderful man. And just because he's changing shoes now, so to speak, doesn't make him less won-



derful. "I will always love my dad, whether he's a man or a woman," she tells Us Weekly, rather nonchalantly trivializing the whole transitioning experience, but, whatever.

Cue the backlash in 3, 2, 1...

Insurgent star Shailene Woodley is doubling down on her comments from last year that she's not a feminist. Only now she's not a feminist and she's also not not a feminist. If that makes any sense.

"The reason why I don't like to say that I am a feminist or I am not a feminist is because to me it's still a label. I do not want to be defined by one thing. Why do we have to have that label to divide us? We should all be able to embrace one another regardless of our belief system and regardless of the labels that we have put upon ourselves," she says.

Of course, she might change her tune if someone explained to her what feminism actually is, because her description, as told to Time

Quoted

"I do not want to be defined by one thing. Why do we have to have that label to divide us?"

Shailene Woodley on why she's not a feminist

in an interview last year, seems a little off: "I love men, and I think the idea of 'raise women to power, take the men away from the power' is never going to work out because you need balance," she says.

"I think that if men went down and women rose to power, that wouldn't work, either. We have to have a fine balance." You know, like equality.

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Bristol Palin engaged to Dakota Meyer

The daughter of former Alaska governor and former GOP vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin said in a blog post Saturday that Meyer came to Alaska to film the Amazing America reality show with her mother last year. She says Meyer is wonderful with her son Tripp.



Meyer was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2011.

The Kentucky native is credited with saving the lives of 36 Marines, Army soldiers and Afghan soldiers while providing cover for them to find their way out of a firefight with the Taliban. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



More Katie Holmes and Jamie Foxx dating rumours

Can't two incredibly attractive, wealthy and famous grown-ups just be good friends without everyone speculating that they're an item? Apparently not, if it's Katie Holmes and Jamie Foxx, who've been dodging dating rumours for more than a year. Of course, it doesn't help that Us Weekly found a photo of the two from February that shows them holding hands, playing footsie and being rather couple-ish.

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What Sally says about ageism and sexism

SXSW. In Austin at the premiere of her latest film, actress reflects on the limited roles for 'women of age'

NED EHRBAR
Metro News in Austin

Sally Field wowed audiences at SXSW with her star turn in director Michael Showalter's delightful *Hello My Name Is*

Doris, playing an earnest wall-flower who becomes the toast of Brooklyn hipster culture.

It's a delightful, comic role, and while Field got her start in comedy, lately she's been leaning more toward dramatic work. But, Field is quick to point out, that's not at all voluntary.

"How many times do I get offered comedic scripts? It isn't even that. How many times do I get offered anything worth considering, be it comedic or serious or anything? Welcome to the world," Field tells Metro.

Perception is everything

Are the offers just not in her Field?

While Doris director Michael Showalter agrees with Field's assessment of opportunities for female actors, he thinks his star might be overlooking one crucial mitigating factor when it comes to analyzing

the offers she's receiving. "I bet, too, with her there's people that wouldn't even consider (offering her a role)," he says. "They'd be like, 'Well she won't do it.' I'll bet there's an element of that. That she would seem unattainable."

For the record, Ms. Field would like everyone to know that she is in fact attainable — assuming the script is good enough.



Actress Sally Field arrives at the premiere of *Hello, My Name Is Doris* during the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas.

GETTY IMAGES

Music. Mary J. Blige just one of many acts rivalling the big Austin arts fest

Mary J. Blige performed for a feverish crowd Tuesday night at the Samsung Supper Club in Austin, in an event not sponsored by South by Southwest. It's another sign of unofficial concerts rivalling the festival when it comes to pulling big-name acts.

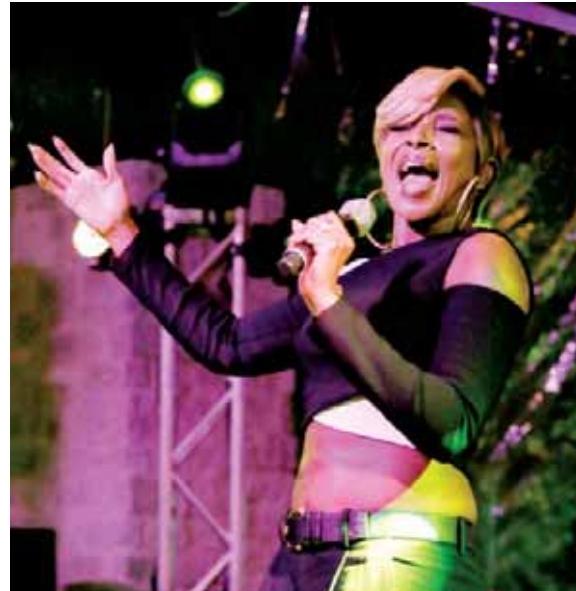
Iggy Azalea, D'Angelo and Nick Jonas are some of the other top acts at events unrelated to the festival.

Blige is no dancer, but the performer moved energetically at the show, even imitating Michael Jackson's dance moves during her funky hit, Just Fine.

She kicked off her set with Enough Cryin' — which features her rapping as her alter ego Brook-Lynn — and she continued with the up-tempo anthem, The One.

She moved like a pro, though there was water dripping from the covered ceiling on the venue's rooftop. She managed to manoeuvre in heels and an ab-revealing crop top.

"Go Mary. Go Mary," the crowd, who attended a seated dinner prior to the performance, yelled loudly. Blige's husband, Kendu Isaacs, filmed her performance with his phone while Orange Is the New Black actress Danielle Brooks, music



Mary J. Blige on Tuesday performed at an Austin concert not sponsored by SXSW. GETTY IMAGES

manager Kevin Liles and track and field Olympian Sanya Richards-Ross — along with her NFL husband Aaron Ross — sang and danced along.

"Where the My Life fans at?" the 44-year-old Blige asked, referring to her classic 1994 sophomore album.

She followed with songs from that album, including Be Happy and You Bring Me Joy. She also performed other hits from the past, including Real Love and You Remind Me from her debut album, 1992's What's the 411?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Joe Fresh creative director Joe Mimran greets the crowd in Toronto after his collection on the runway during Toronto Fashion Week in March 2014. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joe exits the catwalk, enters the den

Fashion. A look back at the nearly 10 years of Joe Fresh as its namesake creator steps down from the brand

Joe Mimran surprised the fashion and retail world this week by stepping down from the famed label that bears his name. Here's a look at five noteworthy moments in the life of the affordable apparel brand.

Joe Fresh drops "Style" from brand name

When the label launched in 2006 with men's and women clothing, it was introduced by parent company Loblaw as Joe Fresh Style.

The low-priced lined was initially only available at select Superstores. The brand continued to evolve, introducing children's wear in 2007, cosmetics in 2009 and its first stand-alone store in Vancouver in 2010. As the fast-growing brand forged forward, the label dropped "Style" from its official moniker in 2011.

Marquee models on the runway

Prior to pulling the plug on runway presentations last fall, Joe Fresh shows at Toronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week were among the biggest draws on the event's calendar.

The label generated big buzz by enlisting some of the fashion industry's top talents to take part on the catwalk. In

2008, Toronto-born, Richmond B.C.-raised supermodel Coco Rocha was 19 when she made her Canadian debut on the Joe Fresh runway to cheers and applause. American model Crystal Renn also made a splash walking for Joe Fresh, as did strutting fashion legend Pat Cleveland.

Scouts Canada Style Redesign

Scouts Canada uniforms got a Fresh makeover for the first time in two decades when the label partnered with Canada's largest youth organization to revamp its official ensembles in 2011.

The redesign was a collaborative process between the two camps, in addition to consultations with thousands of Scouts members. Canadian flags were featured in the re-

tooled design, which also saw the emergence of spruced-up colours and the elimination of badges on sashes for Cubs and Scouts, who now wear the symbols of achievement on their sleeves.

Bangladesh factory collapse

The production practices of Joe Fresh and other brands were in the spotlight following the fatal building collapse in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which claimed more than 1,100 lives.

Items carried by the Canadian label were among those produced within the illegally constructed Rana Plaza.

In the aftermath of the 2013 tragedy, Loblaw provided financial compensation to workers and contributed \$1 million to Save the Children Bangladesh and the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed, in support of programming for workers in the garment industry.

Loblaw also teamed with several retailers in signing an agreement to improve fire and building safety in Bangladesh. The pact required the companies conduct independent safety inspections, make their reports on factory conditions public and cover expenses for needed repairs.

New outfit

Mimran welcomed to Dragons' Den

CBC says the fashion retail giant will be one of the next batch of business bosses fielding pitches on the reality series. Mimran has been behind formidable brands including Joe Fresh, Club Monaco, Alfred Sung, and — with his wife, Kimberley Newport-Mimran — Pink Tartan.

The new season of the show, which airs Wednesdays on CBC, starts this fall.

Joe goes global

The label has grown well beyond its supermarket origins. Joe Fresh is available in more than 340 retail locations, and also operates six freestanding stores in the U.S. The brand opened its first storefront outside North America with a flagship in Seoul which launched last year.

The rollout in Korea is part of a four-year plan to launch 141 Joe Fresh stores in 23 countries. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Crystal Renn and Pat Cleveland
model
Joe Fresh
ensembles.
NATHAN
DENETTE/THE
CANADIAN
PRESS

Gritty graffiti indoors

Art is more than canvas, paint or photography. Look around outside and you'll see all sorts of self-expression that just might make its way inside your home and inspire a new way of thinking about art. The drive-by images of street art can add an energetic vibe to even the stuffiest of rooms



DESIGN
CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca



Pure Evil steps up to the plate

Granny's dining room walls never looked so chic! Royal Doulton's Street Art Pure Evil Decor Collection: Set of four china plates are \$110 at TheBay.com



Book 'em

A quarter century of street art by one of the world's most-recognized artists. ACT-4, 25 Years: 1989-2014 by WK Interact, \$40, Chapters.Indigo.ca

Scrub up good

Be awash in the midst of creativity. Graffiti In Prague shower curtain, \$86, CafePress.ca



A Crash course in art

Collect limited edition street art from around the world for 20 bucks (launching in April). Graffiti Letters art print by John Crash Matos, \$20. Stromby frame, \$35, Ikea.com

The writing's on the wall

Bring an urban-chic vibe to any space. Graffiti Wall Decal, 17x104 in., \$56, WallPops.com



ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Organize your home the 'KonMari' way

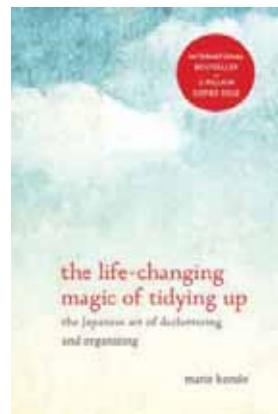
Spring cleaning. Marie Kondo's best tips from *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*

Marie Kondo is like the Beyoncé of Japan — a larger-than-life superstar. But unlike Beyoncé, Kondo is a professional organizer and tidier. Her book *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* is making waves among Americans who want to learn how to live a neater and more zen lifestyle.

We read the book, and can vouch for its life-changing impact. Here are the lessons we learned from Kondo through her technique, which she calls the "KonMari Method."

Get rid of unnecessary possessions

The KonMari method is to ask yourself if it "sparks joy." How can you tell? Don't think about whether or not you "might need it later" or if someone gave it to you as a gift — pick it up, touch it and decide if you feel a visceral joy for this item.



If not, thank the item for serving its purpose to you (whether or not you actually used it or if it just gave you momentary joy when you purchased it) and toss it. Kondo is adamant that you must throw things away before you try to reorder your home.

Do big purges

Don't chip away at your mess. Kondo says if you don't want to relapse into your slushy ways, do your big discards at once. Why? Kondo says when you tidy completely, "you transform the scenery" and the tidiness will inspire you



Take a new approach to decluttering based on advice from Japan's professional organizing superstar Marie Kondo. ISTOCK

to keep it neat.

Tidy in order

Tidying isn't emotionally easy, so Kondo recommends tidying in the following order:

clothes, books, papers, random items and lastly, mementos. Kondo says we're not as attached to our clothes as we are to mementos, so this is the easiest order for us

to tidy to build up resistance to being overly sentimental.

Put everything on the floor

Kondo says it's easier to assess an item if you take it out

of hibernation. You'll be able to see them better, and it will be easier for you to pick up each item and touch it to see if it sparks joy.

Store everything vertically if possible

Kondo likes to store everything upright. She says stacking wears out the bottom items and that it's easier to see what you have when it's stored upright instead of at the bottom of a pile.

Also, stacking is more difficult when items are stored vertically, which means you are less likely to take on unnecessary clutter. Kondo folds up her clothes so they stand on edge and even stores her carrots vertically in the refrigerator.

Use shoeboxes

Kondo is against buying pricey storage containers, especially if they're not square or rectangular. She suggests shoeboxes because they are durable and the perfect size for storing small items. She even likes using the lids to store spices inside cabinets.

Kondo's timing couldn't be better — spring cleaning is just around the corner. Get ready for a "joy" ride!

METRO U.S.

Scoot on over to Vespa Halifax

Electric bicycles and gas- or electric-powered scooters are becoming an increasingly attractive option for budget-conscious, eco-friendly civic commuters, but it always pays to do some comparison shopping before making any important vehicle-purchasing decision. No worries: Vespa Halifax, one of the exhibitors at Motorcycle and Powersport Atlantic 2015, has it covered.

Along with a comprehensive inventory of both new and used scooters, Vespa Halifax also

stocks the sturdy U.S.-built ProdecoTech line of electric bicycles — the brand favoured by police departments throughout North America.

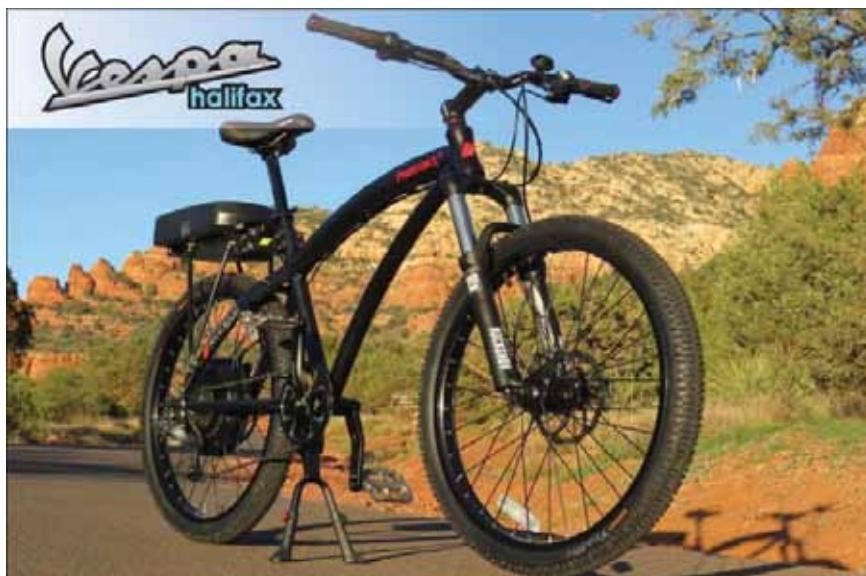
Knowledgeable, professional sales staff at Vespa Halifax make sure you get the vehicle that best suits your needs, and you can count on their service department to keep your ride in top shape year-round: they provide everything from basic maintenance to custom tune-up packages to winterization. "Service is readily

available and so are parts," says Vespa Halifax manager Richard MacDonald.

That's key, MacDonald says, because replacement parts are not always easy to find with similar products purchased through big-box stores. "The perceived value in a low-cost unit disappears quickly when parts necessary to keep the unit on the road are not available — suddenly, your thousand-dollar scooter doesn't look like such a bargain."



A Halifax Vespa customer gets an early start on spring. CONTRIBUTED



With a wide selection of styles, along with a range of prices to suit anyone's budget, there's a ProdecoTech electric bicycle for everyone!

Unlike other manufacturers that export lower quality ebikes from Asia, or higher priced ebikes from Europe, ProdecoTech electric bicycles are manufactured and assembled in North America.



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Master of its domain

Based in Saint John, N.B., and locally owned, Master Promotions Ltd. is Canada's largest independent trade and consumer event management company. It has been producing trade shows, consumer shows and conferences throughout the country for more than three decades. With offices in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia — and providing service in both official languages — Master Promotions is truly a made-in-Canada success story.

The company now manages more than 25 major events annually; this is their second year co-ordinating the Motorcycle and Powersport Atlantic exhibition, and everyone is gearing up to surpass the success of last year's event.

"The entire team is excited to be involved in an event that supports both local and national

businesses and brings together the industry as a whole," says Catherine McNutt, Master Promotions' marketing and operations manager. "This is truly an event that enthusiasts and industry both look forward to all year long."

Master Promotions' full-time team of 28 professionals includes senior managers, show managers and associate managers, as well as marketing and advertising personnel, plus accounting and clerical staff. The company takes great pride in its ability to meet the highest industry standards while providing everything from exhibitor move-in and move-out to show contracting services and registration systems. All brochures, ads, and printed materials for the event marketing and advertising programs are developed and produced entirely by Master Promotions staff. Now that's a one-stop shop.

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PROFESSIONAL IN EVERY SENSE

Loyalty is a two-way street, especially when your stock-in-trade is motorcycles and ATVs. Dartmouth-based Pro Cycle has been going in the community since 1983. The 27,000-square-foot facility makes it one of the biggest dealerships of its kind in Nova Scotia. You'll find all the recognized brand names on the showroom floor, including Honda, Suzuki and Yamaha, but it's really the people who work at Pro Cycle that make the difference.

Keith Ramsay has been with the company for 25 years, now serving as the shop's sales manager and general manager, where he oversees 30 faithful employees. "Staff are loyal to us," Ramsay says. "Most of them have been with us a long time and they're all experienced riders, which gives them a definite advantage."

Along with an impressive inventory of the best new and used motorcycles and ATVs, Pro Cycle is known for its exemplary customer service. Ramsay encourages novices to drop by the shop and discuss their prospective riding needs with friendly, knowledgeable staff, who are there to guide them through the selection process. By the same token, seasoned veterans will appreciate the expertise that comes with in-depth, first-hand experience.

As a committed supporter of local motorcycle events, Pro Cycle will reinforce its presence in the community this month with a booth at Motorcycle and Powersport Atlantic 2015. "The exhibition gives us an opportunity to showcase the new models for the upcoming season," Ramsay says.

EXTRA ATTENTION

The motorcycles and ATVs are the main attraction, of course, but Pro Cycle is also known for its wide range of riding apparel—"from the best brands in the business"—including goggles and eyewear, street gear, off-road gear, casual wear and all the accessories. According to manager Keith Ramsay, Pro Cycle is one of the biggest sellers of motorcycle helmets in all of Canada. You'll also find a great selection of OEM (original-equipment-manufacturer) and after-market parts and accessories for motorcycles, ATVs and power equipment.

Second spin for major show

As many local outdoor enthusiasts would probably agree, the Motorcycle and Powersport Atlantic 2015 exhibition couldn't have come at a better time. The next installation of this fledgling annual tradition — returning to Halifax's Exhibition Park for a second time from March 20 to 22 — begins on the first day of spring. What better way to kick off the fresh new season?

"The buzz is building," says Denise Miller of New Brunswick-based Master Promotions, which is co-ordinating the big event. "People are talking about it already. They're counting down the days, especially after such a long and treacherous winter. This is a way for everyone to shake it off and get ready for spring."

Building on the momentum generated by the success of last year's inaugural event — which attracted some 10,000 attendees in just three days — Motorcycle and Powersport Atlantic 2015 promises to deliver exactly what people enjoyed most the first time around, plus a few new and different offerings.



CONTRIBUTED

TIME TO SHINE

Another popular holdover from last year's Motorcycle and Powersport Atlantic: Show & Shine, which gives anyone the opportunity to put their own prized bike on display. Participants receive a free weekend pass if they bring their bike to the show. Attendees cast their ballots to choose the best entry.

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Cookbook of the Week

Meals straight from the oven



Got a sheet pan and an oven? If so, you have what it takes to make complete meals, snacks, brunch and even dessert.

Molly Gilbert's Sheet Pan Suppers offers more than 120 recipes that reinvent the one-pot meal. The appeal is twofold: First, it is convenient and, second, roasting, baking or broiling intensify flavours. But the real genius of the book is Gilbert's well-rounded approach.

Sheet Pan Suppers takes you from weeknight meals like Soy-Mustard Salmon and Broccoli to special occasion meals such as Rack of Lamb with Herby Bread Crumbs and Buttered Carrots as well as dessert such as Cannoli Roulade. METRO

For your phone

The Photo Cookbook — Tapas (iPhone/iPad; \$4.59)



MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

A collection of tasty bites from Spain, this visual step-by-step prep and cooking guide includes beef skewers, stuffed tomatoes, ham croquettes and tortilla nibbles perfect for get-togethers on sunny days.



Here's to redefining pizza night

Dinner. Portabella Cap Pizzas and Garlic Knots will make you rethink calling the delivery place you have on speed-dial

"This (take on pizza) is a fresh and healthy (traditional crustless) version, which happens to be vegetarian to boot," writes Molly Gilbert in Sheet Pan Suppers.

Bright Mediterranean flavours in the form of artichokes, tomatoes, garlic, and goat cheese come together atop tender, meaty portabella mushroom caps, the result of which should please meatless friends and carnivores alike.

"Plus we're throwing in some garlic knots!"

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F with a rack in the centre position. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.

2. Place the portabellas top down and evenly spaced on the prepared sheet pan, making sure to leave room on the perimeter and in between for the garlic knots. Sprinkle the mushrooms with a pinch of salt. Pile the artichokes, tomatoes, goat cheese, and



This recipe serves two to four people. MOLLY GILBERT

Parmesan on top of the portabellas, dividing the toppings evenly. Season them with the garlic powder, oregano, and

a pinch each of black pepper and red pepper flakes.

3. Combine the garlic, olive

oil, and parsley in a small bowl. Open the crescent rolls and cut them apart into triangles where they're scored. Working with one dough triangle at a time, tie the piece of dough in a loose knot, tucking the ends under the knot. Arrange the knots on the sheet pan around the portabellas, leaving a bit of space between knots. Brush each knot generously with the garlic mixture.

4. Bake the portabellas and

garlic knots until the portabellas are tender, the cheese has browned and melted, and the garlic knots are golden, 20 minutes. If your portabellas are particularly fat, remove the garlic knots from the pan and let the mushrooms cook until tender, an additional 5 to 10 minutes.

5. Serve the pizzas and garlic knots hot from the oven. BOTH RECIPES EXCERPTED FROM SHEET PAN SUPPERS BY MOLLY GILBERT (WORKMAN PUBLISHING). COPYRIGHT © 2014.

Ingredients

- 4 large portabella mushrooms, wiped of dirt, stemmed
- Kosher salt
- 3/4 cup chopped, drained jarred or canned artichoke hearts
- 1 cup chopped tomato (about 1 medium-size tomato)

- 4 oz goat cheese, crumbled
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Crushed red pepper flakes
- 6 cloves garlic, minced

- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp minced fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
- 1 tube (8 oz) refrigerated crescent rolls

A fine balance of sweet and savoury flavours

"Here's an easy one," writes Molly Gilbert in Sheet Pan Suppers.

"A quick toss of fresh fruit with flavour-enhancing salt and olive oil, some strategic (or rather, mindless) unwrapping of cheese and crackers, and you're pretty much there, appetizer-wise."

"A brief jaunt in the oven coaxes the Brie to soften inside and lets our strawberries really shine — they'll hold their shape but yield when eaten, bursting softly with jammy sweetness. Grab a cracker! This one is best served warm."

"Feel free to substitute Camembert for the Brie, grapes or pieces of stone

fruit for the strawberries."

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F with a rack in the centre position. Line a sheet pan with aluminum foil or parchment paper.

2. Place the Brie in the centre of the prepared pan. Place the strawberries in a medium-size bowl, add the olive oil and salt, and toss to combine. Arrange the strawberries around the cheese.

3. Bake until the cheese has softened but not melted through the rind and the strawberries have puckered and released some of their

juice, about 20 minutes.

4. Carefully transfer the cheese and fruit to a serving tray, or serve it right on the pan. Enjoy immediately, while everything is still warm, with plenty of crackers and bread alongside.

Ingredients

- 1 wheel (8 oz) Brie cheese
- 2 cups (about 1 pint) fresh strawberries, hulled and cut in half lengthwise
- 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- crackers and/or crusty bread, for serving



This Baked Brie and Strawberries recipe serves four to six. MOLLY GILBERT

QMJHL

Mooseheads game cancelled due to 'severe weather'

You know it's a real Canadian winter wallop when even hockey is cancelled.

The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League announced Wednesday afternoon that the game between the Halifax Mooseheads and Moncton Wildcats, originally scheduled for that evening at the Scotiabank Centre, has been postponed due to "severe weather."

"The Mooseheads would like to thank their fans for their patience while the league waited to come to this conclusion," a statement on the team website said.

"Officials had to take scheduling issues into consideration as the regular season comes to a close on Saturday."

The Halifax-Moncton matchup was the third last of the regular season for the Mooseheads.

Details on a "potential" make-up date are still to be announced. Ticket holders will be able to use their tickets from Wednesday night for the make-up game or can receive a refund from the Ticket Atlantic box office until March 27. **METRO**

NHL

Kadri suspended four games

The NHL has given Toronto Maple Leafs centre Nazem Kadri a four-game suspension for his hit to the head of Edmonton's Matt Fraser.

"I'm not happy about it, but what are you going to do at this point? Obviously it wasn't my intent to injure the player and I hope he's doing all right," Kadri said Wednesday.

The incident occurred in the Oilers' 4-1 home victory over Toronto on Monday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Nazem Kadri GETTY IMAGES FILE



The Halifax Rainmen will face the Island Storm in the Atlantic Division final. The two teams also faced each other in last season's division final, which was won by the Storm. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

Rainmen brace for Island Storm

NBL Canada. Local club looks to get even for last year's loss in the division final

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
kristen.lipsccombe@metronews.ca

The goal is simple for the Halifax Rainmen: win.

That's their plan when they take to the court tonight at 7 p.m. and at the same time Friday night at the Scotiabank Centre, for the first two games of their playoff series against the Charlottetown-based Island Storm.

"We come out every game to win," Andre Levingston, owner and president of the local National Basketball League of Canada club, said Wednesday night. "That's our objective."

The Rainmen earned their

way to the Atlantic Division final by beating the Moncton Miracles in the best-of-five first-round playoff series. They did so in four games, eliminating the Miracles on March 10 with a 112-83 victory at the Scotiabank Centre.

They also finished the regular season at the top of their division, with a 20-12 record, including 10 straight wins.

That doesn't mean it's going to be easy, for a team that struggled at the start of the season before finding its confidence on the court.

"We know we're going to have a tough series," Levingston said, adding the team's No. 1 strategy is to "give their maximum."

Head coach Josep (Pep) Claros' "tells the guys that we can have games where we don't shoot the ball well or don't score well or don't rebound well, but there's no excuse for not giving your maximum," he said.

Winter wallop

The Island Storm were expected to arrive in Halifax this morning. As of Wednesday night, Halifax Rainmen owner and president Andre Levington expected tonight's game to be unaffected by this week's winter storm and proceed as scheduled.

The Rainmen won four and lost three during the regular season to the Storm, who snagged second in the Atlantic Division with a 19-13 record.

The Rainmen and Storm also tipped off in the division finals last season. The Storm advanced to the league championship.

"Everybody is really anxious to get started," Levingston said of Round 2, adding the Rainmen have rested up and practised plenty over the

past week and a half.

Other than the usual late-season bumps and bruises, "everybody feels good and is ready to go," he said.

But there is another factor the Halifax franchise is counting on for success — the fans.

Levingston told media last month there's "a risk" the Rainmen may not return next season if the crowd doesn't start showing up for its local team.

To help draw new fans courtside, the Rainmen have been actively reaching out to their community. That includes theme nights, such as Halifax Transit Night for this evening's game and Diversity Night for Friday night's game.

"Naturally, having home-court advantage, our fans give us that extra boost, when we have a lot of energy in the building," Levingston said.

"So our fight is for Halifax, and we just want the crowd to come out and fight with us."

4 SPORTS

Wiggins whiffs in return to native land

NBA. After getting into early foul trouble, Toronto-area phenom fails to catch fire at ACC

All eyes were on Canada's Andrew Wiggins on Wednesday night for his first game in Toronto as a pro.

But it was teammate Kevin

Martin who nearly stole the show as a feisty Minnesota side gave the hometown Raptors all they could handle before coming up just short at Air Canada Centre.

Greivis Vasquez hit a key three-pointer with 55.9 seconds left to play to help Toronto hang on for a 105-100 victory. Jonas Valanciunas had a double-double with 15 points and 15 re-

bounds and DeMar DeRozan added 21 points for the Raptors.

It was a sloppy game loaded with turnovers and missed opportunities. Toronto appeared to be playing down to its opponent and it nearly proved costly.

Wiggins, the 20-year-old forward from nearby Vaughan, Ont., showed flashes of his sky-high potential

but was hampered by early foul trouble. The first overall pick in last year's NBA draft had 15 points on the night.

"It felt welcoming, I already love playing in Toronto," Wiggins said. "I'm already loving playing where I'm from ... even though we didn't win the game, I still feel appreciated and had fun."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Andrew Wiggins, from Vaughan, Ont., drives past the Raptors' DeMar DeRozan on Wednesday night in Toronto. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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NHL

Hawks' Richards burns former club

Brad Richards broke a scoreless deadlock 7:19 into the third period, and the Chicago Blackhawks cooled off goalie Cam Talbot and the surging New York Rangers 1-0 on Wednesday night.

Right after Rangers defenceman Dan Boyle rang a shot off the crossbar behind Blackhawks backup Scott Darling, Richards got the puck in front of the New York net, waited patiently and snapped a shot past Talbot for his 11th goal.

The Blackhawks stretched their winning streak to four.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UEFA Champions League

Man City stopped by Barca again

Lionel Messi helped Barcelona to a convincing 1-0 win over Manchester City on Wednesday that only goalkeeper Joe Hart prevented from becoming a rout, as the Spanish hosts reached the Champions League quarter-finals for a record eighth consecutive season.

Faced with the daunting task of overturning a 2-1 first-leg loss, Manuel Pellegrini's City needed an inspired showing from Hart just to avoid a thrashing as Messi and Neymar ran amok at Camp Nou.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Impact halfway to final

The Montreal Impact's Cameron Porter, right, and Alajuelense's Porfirio Lopez jostle for the ball on Wednesday night at Olympic Stadium in Montreal. Ignacio Piatti and Victor Cabrera scored in the first half and the Impact posted a 2-0 win over the Costa Rican club in the first leg of their CONCACAF Champions League semifinal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across?
Scan this image with your
Metro News app for today's
crossword and Sudoku answers.
It's OK. No one's watching.



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Someone will play on your emotions over the next 24 hours, maybe for fun or maybe because they think they can get something out of it. Ruin their plans by refusing to get uptight.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Friends and family are on your mind but they are unlikely to mix, so focus on one and catch up on the other later on.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Watch what you say because if you let slip something that people in positions of authority find offensive it could damage your reputation.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

There is no need to go to extremes, even though certain individuals may be urging you to do so. Especially where business is concerned, avoid excessive behaviour.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You like to shock and the planets suggest you will do something outrageous over the next 24 hours. If it's a joke you will need to make sure that everyone can see it's a joke.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

An upheaval is likely over the next few days and there is precious little you can do about it. Actually, if you keep your emotions in check you could gain from someone else's loss.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Work and health matters will be uppermost in your mind today and tomorrow, which is good because you have been overdoing it late.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Use the approaching solar eclipse to get a creative project off to a start. If you pour energy and into it now you will build up the kind of momentum that carries you through to the end.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Challenges are opportunities in disguise, which means you will have at least one and maybe several opportunities to shine over the next few days.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You can sense something good is going to happen but there is no need to hurry it along. Venus, planet of harmony, in your fellow Earth sign of Taurus means the right opportunity will arrive at just the right time.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You may be disappointed that something of value is moving out of your life, but don't be. The planets suggest something even better will soon be along.

♓ Pisces

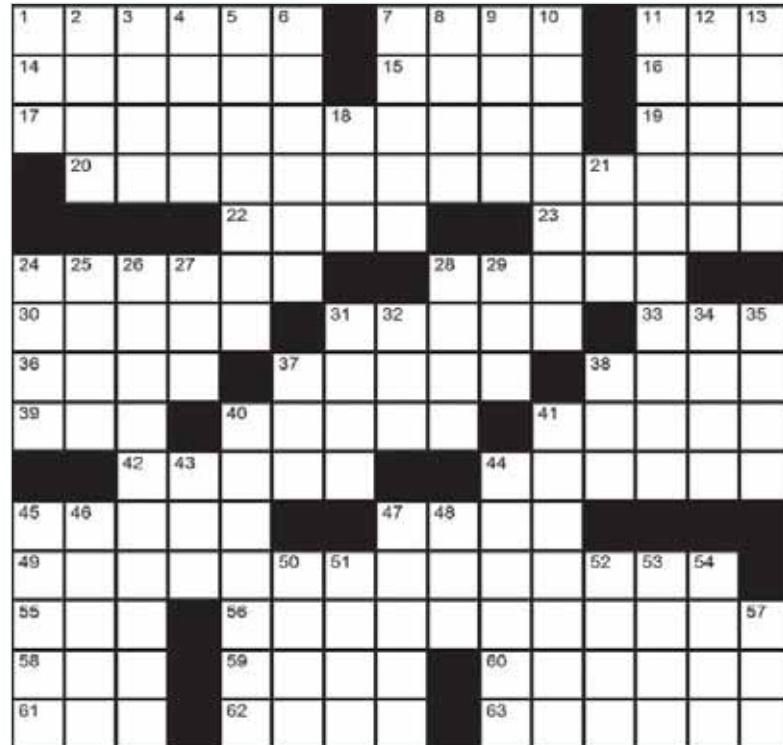
Feb. 20 - March 20

Tomorrow's eclipse in your sign means it is the time to go for glory. No matter how many times you failed you will succeed now. Be positive.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Creme de __ (Black currant liqueur)
7. Centres, curtly
11. USN rank
14. Woolly camel-like animal
15. Ms. Brickell of song
16. Roadside mil. hazard
17. Meaning of 'Klee Wyck', Emily Carr's nickname: 2 wds.
19. Fight ender, commonly
20. Carly Rae Jepsen's latest song: 4 wds.
22. Ship's deck officer, commonly
23. " __ Gantry" (1960)
24. Beaver: French
28. Winter coat
30. Governed
31. Shocks
33. American '66', e.g.
36. Ancient war god
37. John's "Grease" (1978) role
38. Tattooing turf
39. "The DUFF" (2015) actress Ms. Whitman
40. Ms. Spacek
41. Concede/grant
42. Into-hockey-nets projectiles
44. Country legend
45. Embarrassing public disturbance
47. Store
49. AHL team: 2 wds.
55. Folklore creature
56. Quebec town on



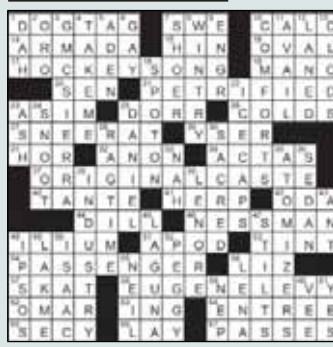
- the Ottawa River
58. New Zealand parrot
59. 'Fed' suffix
60. More breezy
61. Be imperfect
62. Feed on food
63. Sound system sort

Down

1. Pres. Coolidge
2. Jai's court partner
3. Cowboy boot attachment
4. Having wisdom
5. "Sleepy Hollow" on Global TV fellow Mr. Crane
6. Maritime crew person
7. FOX News anchor Ms. Kelly
8. Graven image
9. Original host of "Cityline" Ms. Petty
10. Questers
11. NB: Saint John __

- (Shopping attraction)
12. Orange __ (Tea)
13. Glade target
18. Belonging to Gander's li'l province, variably
21. Banff sighting
24. Study hard

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | 9 | | 2 |
| 6 | | 1 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| | 8 | | 6 | | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | | | 9 | 3 |
| 2 | | 4 | | 5 | |
| 1 | | 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | | | 5 | | 3 |

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